

Greeting from the Chair of the Adaptation Fund

2013 will mark a decisive year for the future of the Adaptation Fund. I feel honoured to be entrusted with the role of its chairmanship at this time. The Fund has achieved significant progress during recent years. It has so far approved more than 25 concrete adaptation projects that aim to increase the adaptive capacity of vulnerable communities to the adverse effects of climate change. More than US\$ 175 million in grant funding has been allocated for this. 15 countries are now in the position to receive finance through the groundbreaking direct access modality, and the Fund has generated important lessons related to direct access which others - especially the Green Climate Fund - can benefit from. However, with the almost complete collapse of the international carbon markets, the main source of income for the Fund threatens to dry up, at a time when the impacts of climate change are increasingly evident and adaptation is more urgent than ever before. Therefore, making progress on the Board's fundraising target of raising an additional US\$ 100 million by the end of 2013 is of the highest priority. The collaboration with civil society, both in its dialogue with the Board, as well as within countries where projects are being implemented, has proven to be very useful to the Fund. This will be especially true in demonstrating the effectiveness of the Fund in order to raise awareness and help generate the additional resources urgently needed. I look forward to working closely with civil society through a continued and productive collaboration during my chairmanship of the Board.



Hans-Olav Ibrek, incoming chair of the Adaptation Fund Board 2013

Foreword

The Adaptation Fund is at a critical stage. While the implementation of projects funded by the AF is taking off, and the experience with direct access is increasingly being appreciated, funds are getting scarcer. At a time when the key modalities of the Green Climate Fund are being designed, there is the risk of letting the AF dry up, although there are important lessons to be learned. The AF has been a pioneer in several regards. Mostly noted is its direct access function, which has already contributed to institutional progress in many developing countries, strengthening their own capacity to deal with finance. None of the National Implementing Entities was raised from scratch, they are all existing institutions. The AF also managed to early-on establish an innovative results-based management framework and managed to avoid the failure of some funds, which just start caring about such a framework once large sums have



already been spend. The practice will show how to judge its benefits. The projects funded mostly also show that concrete projects do not have to end up as isolated activities. Most of the projects contain elements of capacity-building and also policy mainstreaming, thereby promoting a learning by doing approach, rather than just trying mainstreaming in the abstract. Finally the AF has also been the first fund to establish webcasting of its meetings as common practice.

Of course, in the end it will be decisive how all this ensures the appropriate use of the funds with a view to protecting the most vulnerable communities and their livelihoods against the increasing risks of climate change. Watching this is also a task for civil society. This newsletter provides some insights how this can be done and what civil society actors organised in the AF NGO Network are already doing this. A good groundwork has been laid, and calling for additional funds for the AF is more than necessary.

Sven Harmeling, Germanwatch

Content

Foreword	1
1. Key decisions taken by the AFB at its 19th meeting	2
2. How civil society can help shape the success of the Adaptation Fund	2
3. Costa Rica: new in the direct access club	4
4. Impressions from COP18	5
• "The world shall overcome this challenge as a community ..."	5
• NGO Forum Cambodia	5
• Indigo Development and Change, South Africa	6
• Enda TM, Senegal	7
• Practical Action, Kenya	7
• Forum CC, Tanzania	8

Upcoming: 20th meeting of the Adaptation Fund Board and its committees (2 to 5 April, Bonn), including a dialogue with civil society (tentatively scheduled 4 April). Watch out for the webcast!

Zeros and Heros: contributions to the AF

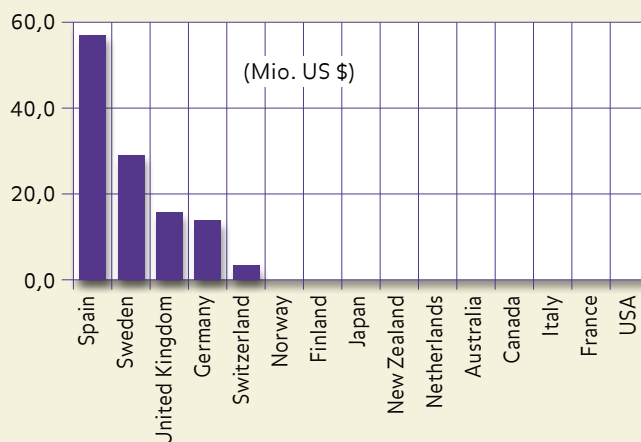


Figure: Contributions of selected developed countries to the AF, as of end of 2012. Apart from the downfall of the carbon market prices, the AF also lags resources because of limited contributions yet received from few donor countries, as can be seen in the above figure. Most recent entries have been the contribution by UK and a second payment by Sweden.

1. Key decisions taken by the AFB at its 19th meeting

From 13th to 14th December 2012, the 19th meeting of the Adaptation Fund Board (AFB), the operating body of the Adaptation Fund established under the Kyoto Protocol, took place at Langer Eugen in Bonn, Germany. Two days prior to the meeting, the members of its two committees, the Ethics and Finance Committee (EFC) and the Project and Programme Review Committee (PPRC) met for the tenth time. The Board took the following key decisions during the last meeting:

- Accreditation of three further NIEs: The AFB accredited an institution from Chile. In intersessional decisions before the meeting, NIEs from Morocco and Costa Rica were accredited, increasing the number of countries which are able to go through direct access to 15.
- The AFB considered three project concepts submitted for consideration at this meeting. One has been endorsed. This project was submitted by the "Banque Ouest Africaine de Développement (BOAD)" and seeks to enhance resilience of agriculture to climate change to support food security in Niger. The two other concepts (Jordan and Togo) were not endorsed.
- The AFB approved two fully developed proposals from Argentina and Sri Lanka.
- The AFB approved four additional projects (Guatemala, Cuba, Seychelles and Myanmar), which due to the lack of resources for projects through Multilateral Implementing Entities have been put in the project pipeline according to the criteria set to prioritise projects for funding.

The launch of the pipeline for approved MIE projects waiting for funding was one of the landmarks of this meeting. The AFB had decided in its previous meeting, because of its financial constraints, to set a cap of 50% for MIEs projects. Accordingly, the cumulative budget allocation for funding projects submitted by MIEs should not exceed 50 per cent of the total funds available for funding decisions in the Adaptation Fund Trust Fund at the start of each session.

- The AFB devoted time on its code of conduct by calling on both implementing entities and AFB members to refrain from any kind of breach of the set ethic code of conduct
- Through the decision on the 2nd commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol taken in Doha (para 21), the AF may receive further share of proceeds from other existing flexible mechanisms. However, it remains to be seen to how much additional resources this will lead;
- Other key decisions of COP18 related to the continuation of the interim institutional arrangements is in the decision on the report of the AF, which calls on a process of selecting host institutions for entities under the convention and the wider United Nation System, including steps and time frames required to conduct open and competitive bidding processes. This means, in other words, that an open process should start, which will explore whether there are other entities related to the UN system, which could provide the same services provided by the Trustee. This paragraph was inserted on the insistence of developing countries, which were not willing to mandate the World Bank as a permanent trustee without having the assurance that there is no institution capable to provide the services as provided by the World Bank in a cost-effective manner.
- Last but not least the AF held its regular "Civil society dialogue" the day before the meeting started, discussing insights from developing countries as well as strategic aspects related to the AF. CSO representatives from Cambodia, Kenya, Tanzania and Germany were present, one representative from South Africa was connected via skype. The report of this dialogue was also subject of discussion at the AFB meeting, where the chair once again expressed his gratitude for the constructive work being done by the CSO with regard to the AF.

The official meeting report can be found here:
<https://www.adaptation-fund.org/sites/default/files/AFB%2019%20Rev.1%20report.pdf>

2. How civil society can help shape the success of the Adaptation Fund

The success of Adaptation Fund (AF) projects will depend to some extent on the involvement of civil society and stakeholders, particularly vulnerable groups, in the project implementation. Because of their close relationship with vulnerable communities and their advocacy role for the interests of the most vulnerable communities, civil society organizations are critical to the AF. They can contribute to the success of the AF through observing the implementation of the projects and at the same time by getting engaged in constructive dialogue with responsible institutions engaged around the AF.

This article is based on the experience of the AF NGO Network members. It provides a range of actions that civil society organizations can explore both within their own countries, but also at the Adaptation Fund Board (AFB) level, to ensure that the particular needs of targeted communities are at the heart of all projects. Whereas the AF NGO network basically prioritizes projects implemented under direct access, it is important to emphasize

that the accompaniment activities of projects are the same for both NIEs as well as MIEs projects.

Civil society organizations could engage in the following activities.

Before project submission

Responsible institutions (eg government agencies, Implementing Entities (IEs)) should **initiate a process to involve civil society** and communities early on in a meaningful way, before a project (or even before an Implementing Entity) is identified. AF provisions require at least an initial consultative process before submission of a project concept.

Such a consultation process would allow civil society organizations to propose or get involved in the identification of specific projects or key areas. This course of action would enable CSO to collect and then raise comments and concerns of the targeted people on project proposals that the government plans to sub-

mit. Among the partner countries of the AF NGO Network, this approach was or currently is applied in Senegal, Jamaica and South Africa, where the project identification was preceded by consultations with civil society.

Contact designated authorities and start consultation with Implementing Entities

Implementing Entities, both national and multilateral, basically bear all responsibilities for AF-funded projects and will play a key role in identifying, implementing and overseeing the projects. The key contact points within governments are the so-called designated authorities. Therefore, it is important that civil society organizations engage with IEs and the national authorities early on and keep consulting with them throughout the project.

In particular in the case of **direct access projects**, civil societies could play an important role in the accreditation process. They often have independent experience in working with the potential national institution. The involvement of CSO is therefore important when it comes to identifying the institutional gaps to be addressed in order to meet the AF fiduciary standards and most importantly prevent for potential mistakes related to the implementation of projects. However, often only once a country has successfully managed the accreditation process, the institution that will perform the functions of the National Implementing Entity will be internationally known. Therefore, local CSOs should strive for influencing, and accessing the information already when its country starts selecting its NIEs.

The list of Designated Authorities can be found here:

<https://www.adaptation-fund.org/page/parties-designated-authorities>

The list of National Implementing Entities (NIEs) with their contact information can be found at:

<https://www.adaptation-fund.org/national-implementing-entities>

Between project submission and AF consideration

Once a project concept or full proposal has been received by the AF Secretariat, the documents are put up on the website before being considered by the AF Board. This happens usually around **eight weeks before an AFB meeting**. In this time frame civil society organizations can submit comments publicly on the website or they can submit comments directly to the Secretariat. It is important that the information on the project comes to the secretariat before it finalises the internal review process of a project (roughly four weeks before an AFB meeting). The proposals are usually posted at:

<https://www.adaptation-fund.org/submittedproposals>

This is a great opportunity to **provide views**, both positive and negative, which AFB members can consider when discussing the funding of the projects.

Usually, every project proposal contains **contact details for the in-country responsible people** as well as the IE in charge of the project. Often, project documents also include a list of stakeholders consulted, sometimes with their email addresses. Randomly checking whether the information provided in the project documents are accurate is a crucial contribution civil society can make. Particular importance deserve the parts in the project description on benefits for vulnerable communities (section B in the project proposal) and the consultative process (section H).

Observing and monitoring project implementation

The success of a project (and the AF as a whole) is ultimately dependent on the delivery of its funded activities. During project implementation new challenges often emerge, which may lead to changes in the project. Also, in their inception phase, projects often undertake additional consultations with local people, which is an important entry point for civil society to improve a project and highlight any risks and concerns that have not yet been considered.

Moreover, engaging or coordinating with other national and local civil society organizations around AF projects could help to build capacity on adaptation in general and to track multi-lateral adaptation funding. Implementing Entities are required to submit regular reports, mostly annually, but although these are important information sources, the intervals are too long for meaningful engagement of civil society locally.

The knowledge management framework of the Adaptation Fund explicitly requires “enhancing the engagement of civil society”. The purpose is to strengthen links with civil society within a country and also at international level. Civil society can contribute to knowledge management through specific activities, such as workshop, information meetings, local consultations, etc.

The regular reports by the Implementing Entities can be found on the website of the specific AF projects, sub-sections of the AF website.

Mid-term and terminal evaluations

AF projects are generally subject to mid-term (if a project lasts more than two years) and final evaluations. The Evaluation Framework of the AF stipulates that: “All evaluations conducted by the Adaptation Fund will seek to engage with relevant civil society organizations (CSOs) to ensure that their views and perspectives are heard and taken into account in the evaluation.[...]. A description of the engagement and the CSOs involved in the evaluation needs to be included in the final evaluation. The civil society organizations have an important role in contributing to the integrity of Adaptation Fund Board policies, including policies on evaluating performance and achievement of results.”

This provides the basis and legitimacy of requests made by civil society organizations to IEs be consulted with involved in AF projects.

To sum up, civil society can engage on different levels and at different stages of the project cycle. It is important that CSOs anticipate and approach the responsible institutions within a country, so as they can influence the process from the outset until the last stage of evaluation.

Key sources:

AFB, 2011a: Revised Instructions for Preparing a Request for Project/Programme Funding. <http://www.adaptation-fund.org/sites/default/files/REVISED%20INSTRUCTIONS%20FOR%20PREPARING%20A%20REQUEST%20FOR%20PROJECT%20FUNDING.pdf>

AFB, 2011b: Knowledge management strategy and work programme. <https://adaptation-fund.org/document/knowledge-management-strategy-and-work-programme>

AFB, 2011c: Evaluation Framework. https://adaptation-fund.org/sites/default/files/Evaluation_framework.pdf

3. Costa Rica: new in the direct access club

Interview with Monica Araya (MA)¹
and Marianella Feoli (MF)², Costa Rica

Congratulations that Costa Rica is now in the club of the countries which can go through direct access in the Adaptation Fund. Why do you think it is important that developing countries use the modality of direct access?

MF: Thank you! Costa Rica decided to use the modality of direct access (through a NIE) for two main reasons, which we believe that are valid for other developing countries:

1. The opportunity to strengthen local capacity and to build on local expertise. We consider that adaptation challenges go beyond the funds of Adaptation Fund and therefore having a strong in-country capacity will facilitate replicability and sustainability of initiatives.
2. Wide participation of stakeholders and ensuring a bottom-up process to design adaptation projects. A NIE that has a close contact with various stakeholders facilitates that local needs and challenges are considered when defining adaptation priorities and implementation strategies and projects.

In some countries going through direct access, like South Africa, Kenya, Senegal and Jamaica, specific attention is given to involving multiple stakeholders in the identification of the adaptation projects to be proposed to the Adaptation Fund Board. Do you know how Costa Rica is planning to run this process?

MF: We are currently building the proposal to be submitted to the Adaptation Board. Based on several vulnerability assessments, Costa Rica decided that the priority areas would be: food safety, water, and coastal marine areas. The planning process has involved multiple stakeholders that are relevant on these 3 areas. Several participatory workshops have been conducted at the local level to be able to identify adaptation initiatives and projects. The focus has been a participatory bottom-up approach for building up the proposal.

Latin America and the Caribbean is relatively active in the Adaptation Fund. There are now six NIEs from the region. Six projects are under implementation. What were the challenges in the accreditation process? Did Costa Rica benefit from South-South exchange in this process?

MF: Costa Rica, and more directly 'Fundecooperacion para el Desarrollo Sostenible' has witnessed the enormous benefits of South-South Cooperation. In this case we have had a valuable exchange with Uruguay's NIE.

The main challenge during the accreditation process was that, being a small organisation, it was necessary to adapt and comply with the requirements in a cost-effective way, but carefully without adding high administrative costs.

At COP18 in Doha, a new group of countries was announced, comprising six Latin American countries, namely Colombia, Costa Rica, Peru, Chile, Panama and Guatemala. The group is called AILAC. Is it right that it aims at promoting an ambitious climate change agreement in 2015?

MA: Precisely. We are committed to raising ambition and to bringing to the table constructive ideas that help reframe the collective challenge we face as international community: from 2020 we all have to do more if we are to solve climate change. For us development and climate protection are complementary goals if we try to solve the two separately we risk not solving either. So AILAC is very keen on looking for partners of ambition that are committed to an ambitious and fair deal by 2015.

Where do you see the role of NGOs in promoting such constructive alliances as AILAC could be?

MA: Personally, I think that one great challenge for the NGOs working in the international climate negotiations is to avoid falling in the same trap that the negotiations have fallen into: the North versus South. That framing is the road to nowhere. Our fundamental dilemma is different: Do we sustain the "status quo economics" (long-term carbonization as acceptable) or "decarbonization and resilience" (as the only way to build lasting prosperity). The champions of decarbonization and climate resilience are found in both developing and developed countries. NGOs can play a constructive role by connecting and empowering champions in different countries –their ideas, political narratives, proposals – to help build a North-South pathway for ambition. We need to work better together. Positive things are happening in Latin America and we hope to be global partners in the search for collective solutions.

Thank you very much for the interview.

Sven Harmeling and Alpha Kaloga, Germanwatch



Marianella Feoli



Dr. Monica Araya

¹ Dr. Monica Araya is a Senior Policy Adviser to several organizations, and a member of the Costa Rican climate delegation. Interviewed in her personal capacity.

² Marianella Feoli is Executive Director of the Fundecooperacion, Costa Rica's NIE.

4. Impressions from COP18

This chapter contains contributions from member organisations of the AF NGO Network reflecting work, impressions and experience during COP18. The AF NGO Network held one side event itself, one jointly with the AFB, and engaged in several other activities.

“The world shall overcome this challenge as a community ...”

This COP18, as other COPs in which I had the opportunity to participate in, has been busy with negotiations, informal meetings, hallways conversations, side events, public demonstrations, press conferences, etc. The COP participants had busier days than normal days in their offices back home. We woke up early in the morning, took long rides to the convention center, spent long periods of time at meetings. The hours passed by quickly and the day was not enough to finish the commitments, so there were times when the assignments lasted until the early hours of the following day. Very often we felt tired and with no clear view on how to cope with this challenge.

One of these past days, I had lunch in one of the coffee shop of the convention center, as a large majority of the negotiators and NGO participants do. This time I had the opportunity to share a table with a lady from a Caribbean country and a European man. What a multicultural lunch! The lady was telling us that this year the entire country felt very vulnerable when they heard the news that a major hurricane was approaching the island, weather events that apparently tend to be more intense these days. Luckily nothing major happened; just a temporary flooding in communities and some crops were lost in the lower areas. She mentioned that her government has been working on how to deal with these events but it had no money to promote adaptation. She was hopeful that during this COP new agreements could be reached and more developed countries could support new financing instruments (I figure funds such as the Adaptation Fund and the Green Climate Fund) so countries like hers could go further on adaption and make their people feel and be less vulnerable.

The man asked if her government already had an estimate of what has to be done to increase resilience (I assume he meant that if they already had a plan and budget for the adaptation process of the region). “I don’t know” she said, “We don’t know it yet, that is a very difficult task for us. In our case, adaptation is not as easy as building a wall or channeling rivers” (which by the way is very expensive!). “It is much more complex because people depend on natural resources and suffer from flooding when the sea and rivers come into land, affecting populations and crops. I think in some cases people would have to move to other sites. It’s not easy to know how much it costs because adaptation requires planning, education and public awareness raising. What is certain is that existing funding for adaptation is not nearly enough to cover the cost”.

The other person, who seemed concerned about the situation, agreed that in fact, it was a difficult task. He suggested that a good adaptation plan should consider territorial planning as a basis for other more local measures. As well, he mentioned a couple of sources where the lady’s government could find more help. “We are also affected, but in different ways; we also need help from the developing countries like yours to mitigate our emissions” he said. “We shall overcome this challenge as a community ... that’s why we are here.” “You are right” she agreed.

Unfortunately, I could not stay to hear more because I had to get up and run to my next meeting. One thing for sure is that afterwards I renewed my expectations for this COP, as the conversation I witness let me know that there is interest from individuals and parties to hold dialogues and find solutions to the causes and consequences of climate change. I hope that at in the near future we in fact will ensure enough financial resources for good mechanisms such as the Adaptation Fund and spread good mitigation and adaptation around the world. That is why we are here. As a global community we need to put our best effort to achieve it by listening, learning and understanding the problems of others, as the two negotiators did at the table in which they shared lunch.

By Isaac Ferrera, Fundación Vida, Honduras

NGO Forum Cambodia

A group of civil society organizations (CSOs) working in Cambodia called for developed countries to cut their emission, increased their ambition targets, and provide more adaptation funding to developing countries at the 18th session conference of party (COP18) of UNFCCC in Doha, Qatar. Four Cambodian NGO representatives³ attended the COP18 from 26 November to 7 December 2012.

During the COP, they disseminated Cambodian CSOs’ position to a number of negotiators and other key stakeholders so that these actors would heed their demands and suggestions. Before joining COP18, the CSOs’ position was developed through a series of consultations with network members and community-based organizations who have been working closely with affected communities. Therefore, the position reflected these local communities’ concerns and demands regarding climate change.

Their position stated that while Cambodia contributes a negligible amount to global greenhouse, Cambodian people were are affected by the impact of climate change. The combination of a low level of resilience and high geographic vulnerability means that Cambodia will disproportionately suffer the consequences of emissions from more developed nations.

To adequately address these concerns and to mitigate the risks of climate change impacts to Cambodians, the Cambodian NGO delegation called for the international community to adopt an ambitious fair and equitable outcome in Doha, that will help stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system.

By Soeun Ung, NGO Forum Cambodia

Indigo Development and Change, South Africa

Climate Finance: Learning while adapting?

Financing adaptation measures was certainly high on the agenda of many delegates attending COP18 in Doha. Unfortunately the outcomes of the negotiations are disappointing and do not entail a binding agreement ensuring adaptation needs of already affected countries can be met.

But in this sea of doom and gloom there are also some rays of hope. The Adaptation Fund has been financing some adapta-

³ NGO Forum on Cambodia, Cambodia Climate Change Network, Cambodia Center for Independent Media, and Danish Church Aid/Christian Aid, which attended on behalf of the Join Climate Change Initiative, an initiative which represents more than 100 NGOs in Cambodia.

tion projects, and has piloted a direct access model. But what really struck me as innovative is the way the Adaptation Fund has engaged with civil society in a constructive way, listening to concerns and learning while moving forward.

During a high level side event opened by the Vice President of the African Development Bank the work of the Adaptation Fund Board and the Adaptation Fund NGO Network clearly had some good lessons to share – and I sincerely hope that an open mind for a new approach based on constructive collaboration and learning is going to be an essential part of all adaptation funding and implementation processes in the future.

Serious Games for adaptation – Climate and Development Days 2012

The Climate and Development Days held in Doha on the 1&2 December 2012 included a minimum of PowerPoint presentations. A vivid mix of panel discussions, small workshops, a movie festival and a series of learning games for adaptation was offered in the course of the two days. Realising that it can be beneficial to explore complex situations through reflective games or interactive learning activities, the Climate and Development Days included a range of interactive learning games ranging from games around malaria and health, preparedness for flood and seasonal forecasts to a gender and climate change game.

It was lovely to see serious negotiators, practitioners and UN officials relax and play with each other, exploring complex systems while using their creativity! A rare opportunity to engage in a playful way during the COP in Doha.

By Bettina Koelle, Indigo Development and Change, South Africa



In the narrow Doha climate pathway

formal entry into force after the Parties have ratified in accordance with their constitution.

For civil society organizations (CSO), an eight second commitment period with low level of mitigation commitments is well below the demand of the science. However it is noteworthy that the new agreement foresees a process of increasing the mitigation commitments in 2014. Through this process several, CSOs now hope that Parties will revise their commitment with the view of closing the GhG gaps .

Adaptation Fund

Countries agreed, in Doha, ways and means to deliver scaled-up climate finance for developing countries. However, new financial institutions should learn from Adaptation Fund which promoted direct access through National Implementing Entities (NIE). The Senegalese institution CSE (Centre de Suivi Ecologique) was the first NIE, which benefited from direct access to fight coastal erosion.

Among activities undertaken during the COP18, representatives of the AF NGO Network participate in several side-events, in which they shared achievements of the Adaption Fund in terms of governance and concrete responses for local communities against climate change coastal. In my statement I often mentioned the project of Senegal, which aims at supporting the Senegalese government to adapt to coastal erosion in vulnerable areas. Besides capacity component to explain poor people what adaptation to climate change means, the project also contains infrastructure components such as the building of an anti-salt dike to halt salinization, fish processing areas, fishing docks, coastal protection infrastructure, etc.

Solutions for People in Drylands

The "Agriculture, Landscapes and Livelihoods" Day on 3 December provided a platform for the agriculture community to share solutions for climate change adaptation and mitigation in agricultural landscapes.

Because of drought, land degradation, floods and other erratic weather patterns that have ramatically reduced agricultural production over the years, African countries are struggling with food insecurity. At the same time, other foreign countries are scooping up vast tracts of farmland in the region to grow crops for export. Civil society organizations, advocated farmer agriculture and access to land for those who work on it.



Side event by the AFB at COP18 (from left to right): Sven Harmeling (Germanwatch), Bettina Koelle (Indigo Development and Change), Luis Santos (Chair of the AFB), Marcia Levaggi (Manager of the AF Secretariat), Emmanuel Seck (ENDA TM)

Enda TM, Senegal

As I had earlier expressed at the beginning of the Doha COP 18 through the Climate Change TV-RTCC, the minimum expected was a second commitment period of Kyoto Protocol and the operationalization of the Green Climate Fund.

At the 8th Conference of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, delegates agreed on the extension of the protocol at a minimum, leaving most of the key issues under discussion. This agreement shall be applied provisionally from 1 January 2013, pending its



AFB side event at COP 18 (from left to right): Krystel Dossou (OFEDI), Sven Harmeling (Germanwatch), Bettina Koelle (Indigo Development and Change), Luis Santos (AFB chair), Marcia Levaggi (AFB Secretariat), Emmanuel Seck (Enda TM), Isaac Ferrera (Fundación Vida)

Globally, it is important to maintain the pressure and to mobilize more actors at all fronts - local, national, regional and international levels. It will have to go through more public awareness campaigns generally so that the issue of climate change becomes an issue of citizenship because civil society shall need an important critical mass for changing paradigm.

By Emmanuel Seck, ENDA TM, Senegal

Practical Action, Kenya

The Civil Society Eye in the Adaptation Fund

The Adaptation Fund (AF) received remarkable attention on the floors and in the halls of the Qatar Convention Centre at the 18th United Nations Climate Conference in Doha. The AF was modelled to reflect the principles laid out in the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, specifically, **ownership, harmonization, alignment, mutual accountability, equity and results**. This has resulted in developing country institutions taking the lead in defining, planning and implementing actions to respond to their adaptation needs.

At a side event, held jointly by the Adaptation Fund Board with civil society, the progress and achievements of the AF in recent years received recognition from most developing countries. The Adaptation Fund Board has made concerted efforts to support the implementation of the "direct access," modality, the transfer of financial resources directly to eligible countries rather than through a third party. At the time of COP18, national institutions representing fourteen countries were accredited as National Implementing Entities (NIEs) for direct access. These include Argentina, Jamaica, Senegal.

I listened to my civil society colleagues from Senegal, Benin, Honduras and South Africa as they took to the stage of the side event and presented their country specific experiences and engagement in the Adaptation Fund financed projects. I was quite impressed to hear that CSOs under the AF NGO Network had established mutual working relationships with NIEs in countries that were represented. A mutual relationship with NIEs who receive and manage adaptation project funds is an important building block for CSOs engagement in the design and implementation of AF financed project. This is not to compromise the "watch dog" role of the CSOs.

The presentations also demonstrated that CSOs were involved in monitoring the activities of AF financed projects. However, the presentations highlighted more of technical aspects of the

projects than the principles of ownership, harmonization, alignment, mutual accountability, equity and results under which the AF was established.

I and perhaps others in attendance were interested in the role CSOs have played in tracking how the AF financed interventions were addressing the questions of:

- vulnerability levels,
- urgency levels and risks arising from NIEs' delays,
- levels of sub-national engagements, and
- local adaptive capacities and cross-sectoral benefits.

Sitting through the side events and the various conference sessions in Doha, I could not help but reflect on the Kenyan status with the AF process. The National Environmental Management Authority (NEMA), Kenya was accredited as the National Implementing Entity (NIE) by the Adaptation Fund Board (AFB) during its 17th meeting, held between 14 and 16 March, 2012 in Bonn, Germany. With this accreditation, NEMA became eligible to access and manage Adaptation Fund (AF) financing for adaptation projects without going through a multilateral, or international institutions.

Following its accreditation to NIE status, NEMA has established a steering committee (CE) with Dr. Ayub Macharia as chair. The CE has developed a road-map towards applying for adaptation project financing from the AFB. An immediate step is a national stakeholder awareness and consultation conference set for 18th December 2012. A follow up action will be invitation of project proposals from agencies working in Kenya with the aim of submitting the first application to the AFB by around March 2013.

How actively and effectively Kenya's CSOs engage in the NEMA undertaken processes will ensure that the projects funded through AF are meeting their objectives and addressing the needs of truly vulnerable people. The engagement of NGOs, CBO and other CSOs is thus crucial.



Discussions during a consultation meeting on the AF process in Kenya.

Initial steps towards CSOs engagement in the AF-NEMA processes have been undertaken. A baseline survey has been conducted to assess current awareness among NGOs/CSOs of the adaptation fund guidelines and the way the AF operates. Two consultation workshops involving NGOs/CSOs to appreciate AF guidelines and develop a contextualized Kenyan criteria from their perspectives.

By Eric Kisiangani, Practical Action East Africa

Forum CC, Tanzania

Just over a year ago, I was on one of the Trans-African Caravan of Hope buses which traveled more than 7,000kms from Bujumbura (Burundi) to Durban (South Africa) for COP 17. It's really hard to believe how quickly time passes by and how things have changed fast during that period.

Durban set the pace by outlining what is needed to be done in the next COP and it was much clear that Doha will be one of the most important COPs. The importance and urgency of this COP was for many reasons including the future of Kyoto Protocol (Second commitment period), conclusion of LCA and negotiating starts of ADP tracks' work plan as well as the progress of the two subsidiaries bodies (SBI and SBSTA) with emphasize on financial aspect in all these.

With all attention put to Doha, one year later from Durban, the two-week conference kick started on 26th November 2012. At one point, I thought the deal was not going to be agreed in Doha due to the slow pace of negotiations at the beginning and also failure of parties to reach consensus for the available texts not mentioning non-existence of texts for some discussions.

During the conference; I was surprised by the developed countries report that they have met the target on fast start finance of \$30b and actually exceeding it by providing \$33b. The figures included money provided as international aid and loans; correct me if my memory is doing me but I remember what was agreed is that there should be 'new and additional money' and not aid or loans; I think that this paragraph is missing in their texts.



Campaign Stunt: A Giant Zero-Dollar bill symbolizes the GCF "Empty Shell".

As the days go, pledges for finance and emission cut were not coming from the developed countries and biggest emitters even after scientific reports clearly indicated the urgency to cut emissions to keep track of staying below 2° as well as adapting to the adverse effects of the climate change.

On adaptation: one of the best examples of climate finance bodies is the Adaptation Fund with its unique feature of Direct Access and success it has achieved with the minimal funds available, where by 15 NIEs have already been accredited and with more than 25 developing countries' projects approved.

The AF conducted a side event jointly with AF NGO Network which provided opportunity for the public to understand about AF, its success and challenges, as well as some case studies conducted on behalf of the AF NGO Network from countries including Senegal, Honduras, Benin and South Africa.

After intense negotiations, finally (24 hours later after the conference should have been closed), the deal was agreed. But there are still uncertainties of the deal namely "Doha Climate Gateway" since most of the climate change concerns were not adequately addressed. Despite of the agreed second commitment period, the agreement is very weak and does not bind all the biggest polluters. Also, there is no clear climate finance assurance on when and how much will be provided to the developing countries for adaptation and loss and damage.

Therefore, with more countries pulling out of CP2, unambitious emission cut and low financial pledges; Doha has put world climate and future into the brackets which need to be opened very soon to avoid the already experienced adverse effects of climate change especially to the vulnerable communities in developing countries.

By Fazal Issa, ForumCC Tanzania

More information on the network can be found at:

www.af-network.org

The website contains resources such as the AF Project Tracker, briefings and reports on the meetings of the Adaptation Fund Board and other reports.



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